Child Marriage Restraint Act.

39 *MR. G. VELU PILLAI (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons exempted from the operation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act since the Act came into force?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER (*Secretary to Government*): 36 persons were exempted from the operation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

Exemptions under Child Marriage Restraint Act.

40 *MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of applications received by them praying for exemption from the operation of Section 11 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, XXI of 1116, the number allowed and the reasons therefor?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: 95 applications have been received and exemption has been granted in 36 cases under Section 11 of the Act. Such exemptions have been granted mainly where arrangements have been made before the passing of the Act and where special circumstances existed or in the case of the serious illness of a parent.

Community of officers.

41 *MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have given any direction for the incorporation of a statement, by caste, of all the officers in each department in its annual report?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The answer is in the negative.

Opening the sluice of the Periyar Dam.

42. *MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether water was suddenly sent down the Periyar river, by the opening of the sluice of the Periyar *Ana* without notice on 19-5-1118;

(*b*) whether several houses and materials of river-side dwellers were washed off as a result of it from the banks;

(*c*) whether they have made any arrangement to compensate the sufferers by the persons responsible; and

(*d*) whether they have taken any steps to see that the sluices are not opened hereafter without sufficient notice to the residents on the bank?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: (*a*) Water was let down the Periyar river by opening the regulators after due telegraphic intimation in the manner laid down in the rules accepted by Government for opening the regulators.

(*b*) The collapse of a few huts and kutcha buildings, alongside the K. K. road in miles 60/5 to 61/6 and along the banks of the river below the bridge in 60/4 and damages to certain estates in the District, inevitable under such unforeseen conditions are however reported.

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